ABSP II

Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II

Primary Focus of ABSPII

- Complement regional and country efforts to develop and commercialize genetically modified (GM) crops in:
  - West Africa
  - East Africa
  - Asia:
    - India
    - Bangladesh
    - Indonesia
    - Philippines

Sources of Support for ABSP II

Funded for five years by:

- USAID $15 Million
- USAID Missions $15 Million+
- Matching Funds $ 4 Million+

ABSP II Consortium Members

- Led by Cornell University with >46 collaborating institutions
- U.S. Universities - 8
  - American University of Beirut
  - Ohio State University
  - Pennsylvania State University
  - Tuskegee University
  - University of California, Berkeley
  - University of California, Davis
  - University of Minnesota
  - Virginia Tech

Consortium Members (cont.)

- Private Sector Entities - 9
- CGIAR Centers & Other International Institutions - 6
- NGOs & Foundations - 6
- National & Regional Partners - 17

Priority Setting

- Designed to complement conventional and organic agricultural approaches
- Specific to each GM crop/geographical site
- Highly participatory
- Will determine which GM crops will bring the most benefits to each region

Priority Setting (cont'd)

- Project kickoff workshops at each site to:
  - Identify local priorities
  - Generate an array of candidate products for each site

Priority Setting (cont.)

- Will include consideration of:
  - Technical factors
    - Advantages or otherwise of GM crop versus conventional crop improvement approaches
  - Rate and extent of adoption
  - Market factors
  - Health implications
  - Environmental factors

Product Commercialization Packages

- An integrated, holistic set of activities (product commercialization package) will be built around each GM crop at each site and include:
  - Technology development
  - Policy Activities:
    - Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer
    - (Biosafety)
  - Outreach & communications
  - Commercialization

Technology Development

- Twenty four concept proposals on technology development already received from consortium members
  - Proposals illustrate broad and deep collective research experience on a wide range of GM crops and molecular technologies
- Cornell's ABSP II consortium has the capacity to address all likely regional priorities

Intellectual Property

- Objectives:
  - Determine when intellectual property issues are and are not a barrier
  - Foster comprehensive policies and strategies leading to long term partnerships to overcome barriers
  - Resolve IP issues as they relate to any particular product commercialization package

Intellectual Property (cont'd)

- Activities:
  - Create enabling environments for intellectual property processes to:
    - Ensure local functionality
    - Ensure international compatibility
    - Assist in negotiations
    - Provide technical support to foster public/private partnerships

Commercialization Activities

- Identify the right product through the priority setting process
- Freedom to operate review
- Licensing
- Biosafety assessment
- Training of key individuals in the marketing chain

Communications Strategy

- Develop a public awareness strategy
  - Emphasize public relations
  - Network with opinion makers
  - Provide science-based information at the relevant level of sophistication
- Build core communications modules
  - Shared components for all sites
  - Modified to meet local needs

Communications (cont'd)

- ABSP II web portal:
  - Build on the successes of
    - Cornell's Genome Initiative web portal
    - ISAAA's Crop Biotech Net
    - Tuskegee's AgBioWorld
    - Virginia Tech's Information Systems for Biotechnology

Socioeconomic Studies

- To guide technology diffusion
- To monitor impact

Anticipated Outcomes of ABSP II

- Increased agricultural productivity due to new GM crops grown in farmers fields
- Improved resource availability, R&D, and leadership capacities for African regional and national institutions collaborating with ABSP II
- Enhanced connection to global biotech resource
- Institutionalization of FTO and IP audit processes in local partner institutions and private companies

Anticipated Outcomes (cont.)

- An enabling environment for local IP licensing and for evaluation of GM crops by cognizant authorities
- Private/public sector partnerships for product commercialization
- Increased understanding by scientists of markets, regulatory environments, IP issues and other commercialization components

Management Structure of ABSP II

- Project Management Unit based at Cornell University
- Technical Advisory Group (10 members) to assess progress of each product commercialization package and approve annual work plans
- Coordinators,one based in East Africa and the other in West Africa, to facilitate day-to-day operations and local coordination
- Steering Committee (12 members) will provide guidance on overall ABSP II management

Thank you